



ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

700407

November 24, 1971

Dr. Patricia W. Durbin
Lawrence Radiation Laboratory
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Pat:

Thank you for the letters regarding your plutonium search at Rochester.

In answer to your letter, I am not concerned with any need for permission from anyone to co-opt these cases into our Center. We have a charge to learn as much as we can about the effects of internally deposited radioisotopes on mankind. Plutonium is obviously the hazard of the immediate future, and hence an area of responsibility of the Center.

We stand ready and willing to put our organization to work in an attempt to exhume all of the plutonium cases you can locate. Give us all the data on them you can find, and we will assign these cases as first priority for our exhumation teams. That means we will go to work to identify the required next of kin so that the exhumation can take place. We will then exhume, bring the body to Argonne, and perform the necessary radiochemistry, autoradiography, etc., etc., etc.

We will be glad to put any living cases into our roles, and perform periodic examinations and maintain a constant awareness of their location and health.

Go to it, Pat; let's see what you can learn. If you need any financial or moral support, let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

R. E. Rowland, Director
Radiological Physics Division

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